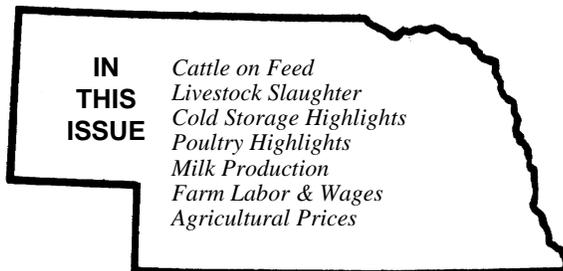


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Dear producers and other data users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

William G. Hamlin
State Statistician

Nebraska Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Nebraska feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head contained 2.14 million cattle on feed on November 1, up 1 percent from last year but 3 percent below November 1, 2001. Placements of cattle into feedlots during October totaled 640,000 head, up 23 percent from last year and 8 percent above 2001. Fed cattle marketings for the month of October totaled 320,000 head, down 11 percent from last year and 3 percent below 2001. Other disappearance during October totaled 10,000 head compared with 10,000 head during October 2002 and 10,000 head during October 2001.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.0 million head on November 1, 2003. The inventory was 3 percent above November 1, 2002 but 7 percent below November 1, 2001. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.78 million, 16 percent above 2002 and 3 percent above 2001. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.86 million, 6 percent below 2002 and 2 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 101,000 during October, 20 percent above 2002 and 49 percent above 2001.

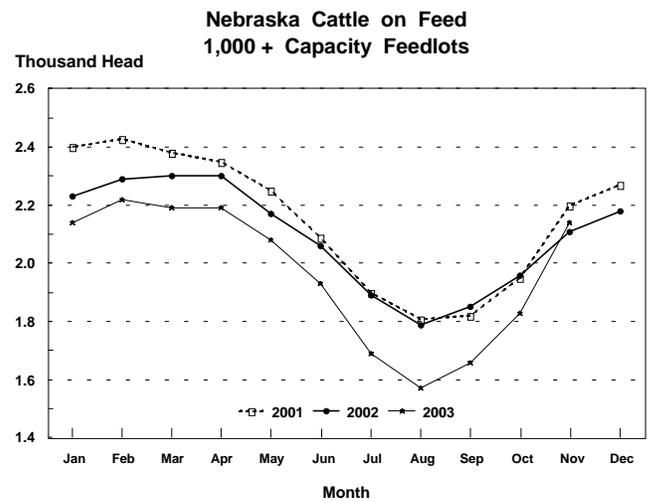
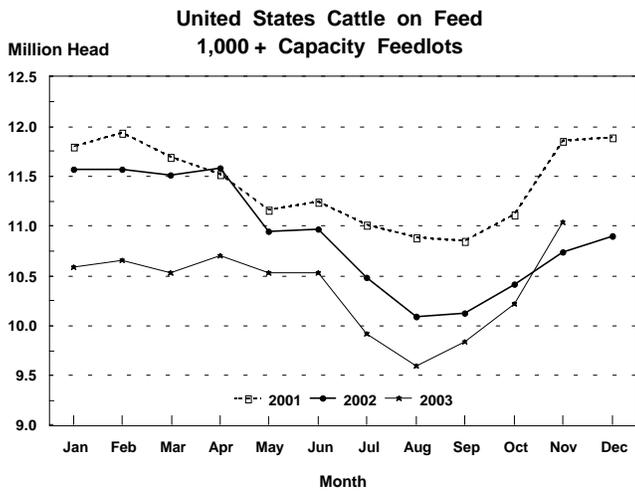
Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2002-2003

STATE	November 1 Number on Feed ¹			October Placements			October Marketings			October Other Disappearance ²		
	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002
	1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent	
Arizona	290	278	96	28	26	93	25	22	88	1	1	100
California	490	495	101	60	68	113	58	54	93	7	4	57
Colorado	1,060	1,050	99	250	270	108	210	160	76	10	10	100
Idaho	295	295	100	77	88	114	61	60	98	1	3	300
Iowa	335	350	104	95	113	119	73	72	99	2	1	50
Kansas	2,300	2,430	106	455	570	125	410	410	100	25	30	120
Nebraska	2,110	2,140	101	520	640	123	360	320	89	10	10	100
New Mexico	117	118	101	22	19	86	16	20	125	2	4	200
Oklahoma	340	350	103	75	78	104	63	74	117	2	4	200
South Dakota	170	177	104	57	68	119	36	34	94	1	2	200
Texas	2,730	2,840	104	600	680	113	570	530	93	20	30	150
Washington	185	195	105	49	51	104	33	45	136	1	1	100
Other States	320	320	100	101	110	109	64	54	84	2	1	50
U.S.	10,742	11,038	103	2,389	2,781	116	1,979	1,855	94	84	101	120

¹Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

²Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed November 21, 2003



Cattle on Feed: Number Placed on Feed By Weight Group, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, By Month, State, and United States, 2002-2003

State	During October									
	Under 600		600-699		700-799		800 Plus		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>									
Colorado	94	88	49	69	56	54	51	59	250	270
Kansas	120	185	145	170	120	130	70	85	455	570
Nebraska	200	245	134	187	87	88	99	120	520	640
Texas	175	250	200	235	165	145	60	50	600	680
Other States	220	255	110	135	94	91	140	140	564	621
U.S.	809	1,023	638	796	522	508	420	454	2,389	2,781

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed November 21, 2003

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

October 2003 number slaughtered and changes from last year and last month are shown below. October 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. October 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, October 2003 with Comparisons

Item	Total ¹	Oct. 2003 Percent of	
		Oct. 2002	Sep. 2003
<i>Nebraska</i>			
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		
Cattle, head	628.1	87	92
Hogs, head	665.8	104	113
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	616.8	87	97
<i>United States</i>			
Cattle, head	3,002.6	92	96
Calves, head	87.5	87	106
Hogs, head	9,638.7	103	113
Sheep & Lambs, head	265.5	88	104
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	4,154.0	95	104

¹ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, November 21, 2003.

Stocks in Cold Storage: By Commodity, United States, October 2003 with Comparisons

Commodity	Stocks	Oct. 2003 Percent of	
		Oct. 2002	Sep. 2003
<i>1,000 Lbs.</i>			
Total red meats	857,859	83	103
Beef	375,930	72	99
Pork	465,331	95	107
Poultry	1,178,564	79	94
Turkey	572,360	92	88
Chicken	603,471	70	100

Source: USDA NASS Cold Storage, November 20, 2003.

Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, October 2003 with Comparisons

Item	2002	2003	2003/2002
	<i>Millions</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.7	11.8	101
30 States	316.7	310.9	98
United States	338.2	333.3	99
Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	262	271	103
30 States	6,938	6,900	99
United States	7,412	7,392	100
Chickens Hatched, October			
United States			
Egg-type	32.1	35.0	109
Broiler	720.6	734.8	102

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, November 21, 2003.

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 20 Selected States, 2002-2003¹

Month	Milk Cows ²		Milk per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2003 as % of 2002
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
January	7,749	7,807	1,591	1,607	12,327	12,548	102
February	7,744	7,810	1,472	1,484	11,401	11,588	102
March	7,745	7,811	1,654	1,660	12,810	12,969	101
April	7,758	7,798	1,621	1,622	12,575	12,645	101
May	7,769	7,783	1,678	1,668	13,039	12,983	100
June	7,782	7,775	1,587	1,590	12,348	12,366	100
July	7,781	7,765	1,578	1,590	12,281	12,345	101
August	7,785	7,750	1,570	1,563	12,223	12,110	99
September	7,781	7,744	1,497	1,503	11,648	11,643	100
October	7,789	7,719	1,539	1,550	11,991	11,965	100
November	7,792		1,496		11,657		
December	7,801		1,575		12,290		
Annual	7,773		18,858		146,590		

¹ 2003 revised. ²Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ³Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, November 17, 2003.

Farm Labor: Number and Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Selected Regions and United States, October 6-12, 2002 & October 12-18, 2003 ¹

Region ²	Hired Workers		Wage Rates									
			All Hired Workers		Type of work							
	2002	2003			2002	2003	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Dollars Per Hour</i>									
Lake	64	72	9.73	9.70	9.28	9.25	9.11	9.11	9.21	9.20		
Cornbelt I	42	45	8.90	9.34	8.49	8.76	8.89	9.67	8.54	8.91		
Cornbelt II	25	26	8.81	9.30	8.69	8.62	8.30	9.83	8.59	8.87		
Northern Plains	34	35	9.32	9.31	9.01	9.29	9.03	8.59	9.02	9.07		
Southern Plains	58	54	7.57	8.01	7.05	7.12	7.32	7.70	7.18	7.39		
Mountain I	30	33	8.13	8.24	7.84	7.80	7.95	8.05	7.89	7.93		
Mountain II	16	20	8.79	8.97	8.31	8.11	8.79	8.12	8.50	8.11		
United States	940	891	8.95	9.05	8.34	8.42	8.42	8.64	8.36	8.47		

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Regions consist of the following: Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin; Cornbelt I: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio; Cornbelt II: Iowa, Missouri; Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota; Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas; Mountain I: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming; Mountain II: Colorado, Nevada, Utah.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, November 21, 2003.

Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates, Selected States and United States, 2002 - 2003 ^{1 2}

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Dollars per hour</i>					
Colorado	8.57	9.13	7.90	8.27	8.07	8.42
Illinois	9.67	9.88	8.63	9.04	8.94	9.27
Indiana	9.19	9.73	8.92	8.95	8.76	9.00
Iowa	9.67	10.34	8.47	9.74	9.30	9.87
Kansas	9.63	9.54	8.85	8.73	8.64	8.97
Michigan	9.62	9.74	8.62	8.42	8.66	8.86
Minnesota	9.73	10.23	9.76	9.80	9.12	9.56
Missouri	8.68	9.11	8.35	8.67	8.33	8.70
Nebraska	8.62	8.67	8.05	8.28	8.34	8.39
North Dakota	9.22	9.49	9.28	9.32	9.16	9.32
South Dakota	8.66	9.23	8.11	8.46	8.22	8.94
Wyoming	7.55	7.17	7.05	6.70	6.96	6.59
United States ³	8.81	9.08	8.12	8.31	8.18	8.42

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Annual rates are averages of the wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October. ³ Excludes Alaska.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, November 21, 2003.

Prices Received By Farmers

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November is 117, based on 1990-92=100, 4 points (3.5 percent) above the October index. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, corn, soybeans, and wheat. Lower prices were received for cotton, hogs, and milk. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of all milk, cotton, cattle, and cottonseed

offset decreased marketings of peanuts, soybeans, sunflowers, and potatoes.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 20 points (20.6 percent) from November 2002. The Food Commodities Index increased 5 points (4.3 percent) above last month to 121, and is 25 points (26.0 percent) above November 2002. This index is the highest since records began in 1975.

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary November 2003 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		November 2002 ¹	October 2003 ¹	November 15, 2003	November 2002 ²	October 2003 ¹	November 15, 2003	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
Wheat	Bushels	\$ 4.26	\$ 3.27	\$ 3.50	\$ 4.25	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.69	38	\$ 9.82
Corn	Bushels	2.37	2.16	2.30	2.28	2.12	2.24	33	6.71
Oats	Bushels	2.33	1.39	1.40	1.91	1.44	1.37	33	4.19
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	4.43	3.88	4.15	4.40	3.99	4.09	36	11.40
Soybeans	Bushels	5.41	6.47	7.40	5.46	6.61	7.37	50	14.70
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	89.00	56.00	55.00	93.20	84.40	80.70		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	89.00	57.00	56.00	101.00	88.80	88.00		
Other, Baled	Ton	86.00	51.00	50.00	73.90	71.40	64.90		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	18.00	16.50	15.20	15.90	17.80	18.40	36	51.30
Hogs	Cwt.	31.00	39.00	38.60	27.80	36.80	34.80	33	104.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	31.20	39.20	38.80	28.10	37.10	35.00		
Sows	Cwt.	22.50	31.30	30.30	20.80	30.90	30.00		
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	70.30	99.40	101.00	67.30	92.00	93.20	57	163.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	71.50	101.00	103.00	71.90	97.80	99.70		
Cows	Cwt.	32.00	46.50	48.00	33.00	44.90	46.70		
Calves	Cwt.	95.20	117.00	119.00	91.90	113.00	112.00	51	219.00
Sheep	Cwt.	33.30	35.00		31.30	34.80			80.30
Lambs	Cwt.	81.80	90.00		84.00	96.90			188.00

¹ Entire month average except hay.

² Parity price based on data for November 2003.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, November 28, 2003.

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